



Service Delivery Committee Working Group Update – Quarter One – 2022 – 2023

ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Update from Working Group Meeting

For the first Agenda item the Climate Change Officer reported that energy data for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Climate Baseline Study has now all been collected and submitted to our consultants APSE. They will produce a baseline carbon footprint for council operations 2019/20 and a report on decarbonisation recommendations in late summer.

Carbon Literacy Training was discussed next and will remain a standing agenda item. We are exploring options, including training from an external provider, to deliver a Carbon Literacy Project course and a further option of using a suite of Net Zero resources through the council's subscription to the Learning Pool. We will aim to conclude with a preferred option by the Autumn to feed into the budget setting process.

The Arboricultural Officer gave a Tree Strategy Update and had been in contact with the Tree Warden Co-ordinator who is available to attend the next meeting to provide an overview of the role. It was noted that the planting of wildlife verges at the entrances to the Borough is possible via a 'Licence to Cultivate' however a community group is required to look after it. Regarding LCC's a "Tree for Every Person" the Borough Council has planted the fewest trees and so there is a need to promote and for people to report that they have planted a tree.

The Climate Change Officer gave an overview of the council's response to LCC's draft Net Zero Strategy and invited Members to provide feedback. It was noted the emphasis placed on collaboration and partnership working within the Strategy and Action Plan, but it lacked 'smart' action points and details on prioritisation given funding considerations. It was agreed that subject to further consideration of Member feedback the officer comments were endorsed by the Environment Working Group for submission to the County Council.

For the final Agenda item, the Climate Change Officer gave a presentation to outline future projects on the climate change agenda with a focus on raising awareness of the various climate related activities undertaken by the Council.